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Tells of Finding Rifle Like 'Kennedy Model'

PUTNAMVILLE, Ind., April 3 (AP).—A rifle of the same model as the one identified as the gun used in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was found in a Terre Haute, Ind., hotel three days after the President's slaying, a former police chief said today.

Frank Riddle, the retired Terre Haute police chief, said the rifle, a 6.5-millimeter Italian Mannlicker-Carcano, was traced to a salesman from San Antonio, Tex.

Riddle, now is in charge of custody at the Indiana State Farm here, said all his information about the rifle was turned over to the Warren Commission and the rifle was taken by Secret Service agents. In Washington, the Secret Service today declined to comment.

The Warren Commission named Lee Harvey Oswald as the slayer of Kennedy in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 22, 1963.

IN RED LEAGUE

Riddle said San Antonio authorities informed him the salesman had no criminal record, was a member of the Young Communist League and an expert rifle marksman. He declined to name the salesman.

Riddle said the salesman registered at the Terre Haute House Nov. 25, 1963 and, according to the desk clerk, was carying a "long package." Shortly after noon on Nov. 26, he checked out without the package, the former chief related.

The rifle, found by a maid, bore no fingerprints, Riddle said. Two telephone calls from the salesman's room Nov. 25 were to a Terre Haute gun shop and to a store that sold rifle ammunition, Riddle said.

FUGITIVE CHARGE

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 3—(AP)—A formal fugitive charge was filed today against Gordon Novel, wanted by New Orleans prosecutor James Garrison who is investigating the Kennedy assassination.

Novel, a 29-year-old former New Orleans night club operater, vowed to fight extradition to Louisiana. But an aide to Gov. James A. Rhodes said Ohio seldom refuses to return to other states persons arrested in Ohio on other charges.

Novel was picked up here Saturday on Garrison's warrant charging conspiracy to commit burglary of a munitions dump in Houma, La., 40 miles from New Orleans.

Earlier, Garrison had issued a warrant seeking Novel as a material witness in the assassination investigation.